

*Secondary
Edition!*



CHAMPS

Classroom Management

Tip of the Week

Attention Signals

Much like an orchestra conductor uses a signal (tapping the podium) to get the musicians to cease their individual warm up activities and pay attention, teachers need an effective way to gain their students' full attention.

Dr. Sprick recommends using a simple phrase (i.e. "Give me five," or "Attention please") paired with a simple hand raise. The student response is to give full attention with a hand raised in the air.

This signal is advantageous because 1) it can be used from any location and 2) it has a visual and an auditory component for students who may miss one or the other. *Another* advantage of this signal (and others like it) is its ripple effect: students who miss the signal will see the responses of other students.

Some teachers feel that high school students may consider the hand raise to be "beneath them." If you think this might be the case, you can let students know that they do not have to raise their hands, but it becomes their responsibility to make sure that all students around them (e.g., the other students in their small group) are aware that the signal has been given. If this adaption is not effective, revert back to the original strategy of raised hands.

Regardless of the signal you use, you must be able to get the attention of the entire class within five seconds. This must be taught and practiced the first day- and then reviewed as often as necessary. Remember, providing praise is the most effective way to increase the students' motivation to perform the procedure correctly.

